# YEAR-LONG INVESTIGATION NETS ARREST AND SEIZURE

In June 2003, information was received by WWCI that a drug dealer was on his way back to Wayne County from Wisconsin. When the vehicle was stopped, officers found a kilo of cocaine located in a hidden compartment in the dashboard. The suspect was arrested and the vehicle was seized.

Almost a year later, WWCI was contacted again with information that the same suspect had gone to Chicago to pick up several kilos of cocaine. Surveillance was initiated on the dealer's apartment.

Shortly thereafter, a pick up truck with Illinois plates showed up at the apartment. Two males entered the apartment and soon, the suspect arrived. WWCI undercover officers then witnessed one of the suspects removing a white paper bag from the pick up.

A short time later, the suspect was observed leaving his apartment and a traffic stop was made on his vehicle. WWCI offers found a kilo of cocaine in the white paper bag. A search of the pick up truck turned up an additional four kilos of cocaine.

In all, six kilos of cocaine were removed from the streets of Wayne County and three drug dealers are now serving time, thanks to valuable information provided to WWCI from the public.

#### **JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG**

WWCI and Drug Enforcement Agency investigators in Detroit and Arizona, along with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, continue to develop their case into an investigation of a multi-state marijuana distribution network. Seizures have been made of more than \$300,000. The organization under investigation is responsible for delivering more than 1,000 pounds of marijuana into the Detroit metro area and for the involvement with a number of murders also in the Detroit metro area.

The ongoing investigation continues to grow, with authorities uncovering more information regarding the organization and suspects.

## **COMMANDER'S COLUMN**

#### D/F/Lt. Edward Gerds

#### **Michigan State Police**

We are all well aware that there is a direct correlation between drugs and crime in our community. We also know that criminals do more than destroy lives, they also steal the sense of safety, well being and freedom in our community.



directed toward our children, family and friends living in Wayne County communities.

As a citizen of Wayne County, you stand to benefit greatly by the collective

Armed with this knowledge, community leaders and law enforcement agencies in Western Wayne County partnered with the Michigan State

Police and federal agencies to establish the Western Wayne Criminal Investigation Team (WWCI). WWCI is a multijurisdictional team with one common goal in mind, removing criminals and drug dealers from our community's streets and neighborhoods, so you can live your life with a sense of peace and tranquility.

The concept of WWCI is based on the simple premise that no one agency has the ability or resources to respond single-handedly to the drug problems in our area. Therefore, we had to look at combining our talent and resources into a strong specialized criminal and drug enforcement team, aimed specifically at removing criminal and drug dealers from our streets.

"I am convinced that by combining our talent, resources and technology, we are more successful in our efforts."

efforts of WWCI. Whether using local street enforcement efforts, interdiction, education/prevention, or taking full advantage of the highly specialized crime fighting tools offered by state and federal agencies, WWCI officers are committed to making a difference in our community.

While cocaine and marijuana still seem to be the drugs of choice found in many of our communities, now on the scene, and positioned to spread like a brush fire, is methamphetamine. Counties across the state have seen an alarming increase in methamphetamine clandestine labs (cooking sites) and meth-related activities as well.

#### **WWCI's Goal:**

Removing drug dealers from streets and neighborhoods, and restoring a sense of peace and tranquility in our community.

As Commander of WWCI, I am convinced that by combining the talent, resources and technology of our local agencies with those of state and federal agencies, we are more successful in our crime fighting efforts. As you can see by just our 2004 narcotics statistics only, we investigated 158 cases, made 141 arrests, took 98 criminals off the street and stopped the dissemination of more than \$2,400,801 worth of drugs

Methamphetamine is like no other drug we have seen before in this area, especially due in part to the fact that it is manufactured (cooked) right here in our community and not imported, as is the

case with other illegal drugs. As you read about methamphetamine in this newsletter, you will see how deadly and dangerous this drug really is. I encourage you to become aware of the dangers associated with methamphetamine, to report any suspicious activities, and to help WWCI officers in their efforts to keep this devastating drug from taking over our community.

TO REPORT DRUGS AND DRUG DEALERS CALL (734) 397-0090 ALL CALLS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

# LOCAL MULTIJURISDICTIONAL DRUG TEAMS HAVING IMPACT ON MICHIGAN DRUG EFFORTS

SINCE 2000, ALMOST A QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF STREET DRUGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN MICHIGAN BY DRUG TEAMS

In the Spring of 1977, the Michigan State Police joined with local and county law enforcement agencies to begin a new concept in fighting drugs and drug related crimes in local communities. The concept was simple - no one agency had all the manpower or resources to adequately deal with the increase in drugs and drug related crimes finding its way into Michigan communities and neighborhoods. By combining local resources with the resources of the Michigan State Police, Criminal Investigation Division, along with state police and federal drug information identification and tracking systems, Michigan took a major step in bringing the fight against drug dealers and drug related crimes to the local level. And, it has worked!

Currently, multijurisdictional teams service 81 of 83 counties in the State of Michigan. Local officers from approximately 550 city and township law enforcement agencies, county deputies from 81 counties and troopers from the Michigan State Police are assigned to these task forces. The teams are funded in part through the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Drug Control Policy, Michigan State Police, and local governing bodies.

Just in the past four years, the multijurisdictional task forces have been responsible for arresting and removing approximately 14,450 drug criminals from our neighborhoods, streets and schools. In four years, the local task forces have also removed more than \$274,478,398 in street-drugs from local communities-drugs intended for our children and loved ones. As a result of the dedicated efforts of the multijurisdictional teams, tens of millions of dollars in assets and property that would have been used to continue drug trafficking in our communities - has been seized and removed from drug dealers.



Multijurisdictional teams service 8I of the 83 counties in the State of Michigan. Local officers from approximately 550 city and township law enforcement agencies, county deputies from 8I counties and troopers from the Michigan State Police are assigned to these task forces.

B.A.Y.A.N.E.T.	Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team	989/790-6581
C.M.E.T.	Central Michigan Enforcement Team	989/352-6738
F.A.N.G.	Flint Area Narcotics Group	810/233-3689
H.U.N.T.	Huron Undercover Narcotics Team	989/356-3395
J.N.E.T.	Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team	517/784-2990
M.A.G.N.E.T.	Mid-Michigan Area Narcotics Enforcement Team	989/725-7254
M.E.T.	Metropolitan Enforcement Team	616/456-4801
S.A.N.E.	Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement	231/238-8692
S.S.C.E.N.T.	State, Sheriffs, Chiefs Enforcement Team	231/843-7045
S.T.I.N.G.	Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group	989/345-2304
S.W.E.T.	South-West Enforcement Team	269/962-1225
T.N.T.	Traverse Narcotics Team	231/922-0993
T.N.U.	Thumb Narcotics Unit	989/673-8600
T.C.M.	Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad	517/394-5588
U.P.S.E.T.	Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team	906/346-9289
W.E.M.E.T.	West Michigan Enforcement Team	616/994-6520
C.O.M.E.T.	County of Macomb Enforcement Team	586/790-3990
W.W.N.	Western Wayne Narcotics	734/397-9811
D.R.A.N.O.	Down River Area Narcotics Organization	734/479-1710
L.A.W.N.E.T.	Livingston and Washtenaw Narcotics Enforcement Team	810/227-7897
O.M.N.I.	Office of Monroe Narcotics Investigations	734/848-3445

# Of the our streets

Wayne

# HIDDEN COMPARTMENT YIELDS STASH AND CASH

WWCI officers were recently contacted by HUNT, a multijurisdictional drug team from northern Michigan. HUNT had information regarding a suspect, living in the Canton area, who was delivering cocaine to the Alpena area.

The suspect in HUNT's custody was to have met with his supplier downstate in Wayne County. Teaming up together, HUNT and WWCI contacted the supplier and made arrangements to meet at a fast food restaurant near I-275. With surveillance in place, the supplier was observed arriving at the restaurant.

As WWCI officers approached the suspect, he pulled a white plastic grocery bag out of his pants pocket and threw it onto the ground, along with the keys for the truck he was driving. Officers made the arrest and discovered that the grocery bag contained four plastic sandwich bags filled with cocaine.

A Canton Township K-9 officer and his dog then searched the vehicle. The dog hit on the center console compartment of the truck. There, officers found a plastic sandwich bag containing \$7,700 in proceeds from earlier drug sales.

TALK ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Working together in a cooperative effort, officers from WWCI, Drug Enforcement Agency-Detroit Office, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, and numerous local law enforcement agencies, have completed a major investigation that ended in the arrest of a Detroit pharmacist.

The suspect was arrested and charged with possession with intent to unlawfully distribute a controlled substance, namely Vicodin and Lorcet. When arrested, he had more than \$1.6 million dollars in cash at his home.

Authorities became suspicious when records showed the pharmacist had ordered and received 173,003 dosages of Acetaminophen with Codeine. This



order was more than 70 times the national average for a pharmacy to dispense. Records showed that the suspect also had ordered and received 1,012,600 dosages of Vicodin. The pharmacist's purchase pattern for this was more than 65 times the national average for a pharmacy to dispense. Needless to say, his activities threw up a very big red flag to investigators.

### **WWCI 2004 DRUG FIGHTING STATS**

TOTAL CASES 158

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED

98

DRUG SEIZED / PURCHASED

\$2,400,801

(STREET VALUE)



REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY (734) 397-0090

ALL CALLS REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL